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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN
AFRICA
Third session
New York, 17-28 January 1994
Working Group I
Agenda item 2

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Draft report of Working Group I

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. A. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

A. Organization of work

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 17 January 1994, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with its decision 2/1 of 13 September 1993, allocated item 2 of its agenda, entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" to the working groups. Working Group I would be responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as Preamble, Principles and Objectives, Commitments, National and Regional Action Programmes, Capacity-Building and Education and Public Awareness and Financial Resources and Mechanisms.

2. At the 1st meeting of Working Group I, on 17 January 1994, the Acting Chairman (Benin) made an introductory statement.

__. At the same meeting, the Working Group approved its programme of work from 17 to 28 January 1994. Subsequently it held __ meetings during that period.

__. Working Group I had before it for its consideration a note by the Secretariat entitled "Negotiating Text of the Convention" (A/AC.241/15) prepared on the basis of the text entitled "Compilation of Government Views, Statements and Drafting Proposals" (A/AC.241/12), containing written submissions from Governments and taking into account statements made at the second session of the INCD held at Geneva from 13 to 24 September 1993.

B. Discussion of topics

1. Preamble

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered the topic at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 and 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 50 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

__. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 10th and 11th meetings, on 24 and 25 January. It had before it a document, entitled "First Revision of Preamble, Article 2 and Article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1) prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of 42 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

An Observer made a statement.

2. Objective

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 31 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

__. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its 11th meeting on 25 January. It had before it a document, entitled "First Revision of Preamble, Article 2 and Article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1), prepared

by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of 28 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

An Observer made a statement.

3. Principles

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 20 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1)

__. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 11th meeting on 25 January. It had before it a document, entitled "First Revision of Preamble, Article 2 and Article 3" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.1), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of eight States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

4. Commitments

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered the topic at its 3rd meeting on 18 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 45 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.2)

__. The Working Group further considered the topic at its 12th meeting on 25 January. It had before it a document, entitled "First Revision of Part II, General Provisions" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.2), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of 44 States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of

the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and on behalf of the Group of 77.

__. Statements were made by the Observers of two non-governmental organizations.

5. National and regional action programmes

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered the topic at its 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th meetings on 19, 20 and 21 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 55 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of two United Nations specialized agencies. Statements were also made by the representatives of two non-governmental organizations.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.3)

__. The Working Group further considered the topic at its ... meeting on .. January. The Working Group had before it a document, entitled "First Revision of Part II, General Provisions" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.3), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of __ States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

6. Capacity-building, education and public awareness

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I considered these topics at its 8th meeting on 21 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 26 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

__. Statements were made by the Observers of two non-governmental organizations.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4)

__. The Working Group continued its consideration of the topic at its ... meeting on .. January. It had before it a document, entitled

"Capacity-building, education and public awareness" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of ... States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

__. Statements were also made by two representatives of non-governmental organizations.

9. Financial resources and mechanisms

First reading (A/AC.241/15)

__. Working Group I discussed the topic at its 9th and 10th meetings on 21 and 24 January. Statements were made by the representatives of 33 States including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Second reading (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4)

__. The Working Group further considered the topic at its ... meeting on .. January. It had before it a document, entitled "Financial resources and mechanisms" (A/AC.241/WG.I/CRP.4), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion resulting from the first reading of the topic.

__. Statements were made by the representatives of ... States, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of African States and one speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

26. At its ... meeting, on .. January, the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. A. Ovchinnikov, introduced the draft report (A/AC.241/WG.I/L.2).

27. At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted the draft report.